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DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA:FERONDON:JC
APPROVED BY ARA/ECA:RWZIMMERMANN
SCA:NPELLETREAU (PHONE)

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O 172048Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 195549

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, CARR (OLGA TALAMANTE)

SUBJECT: REPLY TO CONGRESSMAN FASCELL

1. TEXT OF LETTER FROM CHAIRMAN DANTE FASCELL FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT. DEAR CY: CONGRESSMAN GERRY STUDDS HAS
FORWARDED TO ME THE ENCLOSED LETTER TO HIM FROM THE
AMBASSADOR OF ARGENTINA WHICH INCLUDES A TRANSLATION
OF PURPORTED COMMENTS BY U.S. AMBASSADOR ROBERT HILL
ON THE CASE OF OLGA TALAMANTE, A U.S. CITIZEN WHO WAS
IMPRISONED IN ARGENTINA.

IF AMBASSADOR HILL IS ACCURATELY QUOTED, HIS STATEMENT
IS AT VARIANCE WITH INFORMATION PROVIDED ME BY THE
STATE DEPARTMENT AND BY OTHER SOURCES. MY FILES
INDICATE:

1. THE U.S. EMBASSY WAS NOT NOTIFIED OF MS. TALAMANTE'S
ARREST WITHIN THE REQUIRED TIME FRAME.
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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
☒ Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: () In Part () In Full
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

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2. MS. TALAMANTE WAS ARRESTED ON NOVEMBER 10, 1975.
3. MS. TALAMANTE WAS FIRST VISITED ON DECEMBER 4, 1975 AT WHICH TIME SHE COMPLAINED OF BEATINGS AND ELECTRIC SHOCK TORTURE.
4. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT PROTESTED ARGENTINA'S FAILURE TO NOTIFY THE EMBASSY OF MS. TALAMANTE'S ARREST AND PROTESTED ALLEGED MISTREATMENT.
5. A U.S. DOCTOR EXAMINED MS. TALAMANTE BUT WAS UNABLE TO CONFIRM MISTREATMENT SO LONG AFTER THE ALLEGED TORTURE.
6. A PHYSICIAN WHO EXAMINED MS. TALAMANTE ON NOVEMBER 14 FOLLOWING HER COMPLAINT OF TORTURE TO A JUDGE ON NOVEMBER 13 REPORTED THAT HE "FOUND RED MARKS ON VARIOUS PARTS OF HER BODY AND COULD NOT DETERMINE THEIR ORIGINS".

THERE IS AN OBVIOUS DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE APPARENT FACTS IN THIS CASE AND THE AMBASSADOR'S ALLEGED REMARKS. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THIS MATTER BE INVESTIGATED ENOUGH TO DETERMINE WHETHER, AT THE VERY LEAST, AN APOLOGY WHOULD BE ISSUED TO MS. TALAMANTE WHOSE CHARACTER HAS APPARENTLY BEEN CALLED INTO QUESTION BY AMBASSADOR HILL. DANTE B. FASCELL, CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS. END QUOTE.

2. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS ON SIX POINTS RAISED BY FASCELL BY COB AUGUST 19, AS WELL AS ANY OTHER POINTS WHICH EMBASSY BELIEVES SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO MR. FASCELL'S ATTENTION. VANCE

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